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## **NRCS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR EQIP FUNDS**

*Harrisburg*—The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications until January 12, 2001 for cost-share funding to install conservation practices for treating resource concerns involving livestock/poultry issues and cropland erosion control across the state.

Funding is provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which addresses resource concerns within specific designated geographic priority areas as well as the statewide concerns of livestock and cropland erosion. Following recommendations from the State Technical Committee--a group of local farmers, federal and state agency representatives, and agriculture organizations; funding of \$623,600 is available to treat statewide issues. Contracts are limited to \$50,000 per contract.

“We are proud of the successes being recorded throughout Pennsylvania,” said Janet Oertly, NRCS state conservationist. “EQIP has been very successful in solving erosion and nutrient management problems within Pennsylvania’s 12 geographic priority areas. We wish we had additional funding to provide for statewide concerns,” Oertly added.

Farmers should contact their local NRCS office for more information or to apply for funding. EQIP was established under the 1996 Farm Bill.

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